inter-alia raised issues of giving preference to value addrers in grant of mineral concession, grant of large areas under reconnaissance and prospecting licence, export of iron ore concerns, reservation of mining areas for State PSUs and royalty rates on *ad valorem* basis on minerals

(b) and (c) The issues raised in the memorandum are under consideration of the Government.

Reservation for Dalit Muslims

†66. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some policy has been formulated for reservation of Dalit-Muslims in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the area covered under this provision of reservation and extent thereof; and

(c) if the policy has not yet been formulated, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities has been set up to recommend measures for the welfare of socially and economically backward sections amongst religious and linguistic minorities, including reservation in education and Government employment.

Socio-economic condition of minorities

67. MISS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to conduct or to set up any Committee to study the social-economic condition of minorities other than the Muslims, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Tribals in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh suffer dual disadvantage of being minority; and

†Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have ever made any study of their status and how to improve their socio-economic conditions, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal.

However, a National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities has been set up to *inter-alia* suggest criteria for identification of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities and to recommend measures for the welfare of socially and economically backward sections amongst religious and linguistic minorities.

No specific study has been taken up for these four.States.

Welfare schemes for minorities

68. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new programmes and schemes for the welfare of minorities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, scheme-wise; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government to implement the above policy?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) In June 2006, the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities has been announced which provides for enhancing opportunities for education, equitable share in economic activities and employment; improving the conditions of living of minorities, and wherever possible, earmarking of 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes for minorities. The programme is available on the website of the Ministry at www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

(c) The programme envisages that the progress of implementation is reviewed regularly by the Central Government. States/UTs have been advised to put. a similar mechanism in place.